buted among cultivators. One or more land mortgage banks should be established and these should be attached to the State-aided Bank.

One or two veterinary hospitals should be established in Kuttanad.

Boats used for agricultural purposes in Kuttanad should be exempted from the payment of tolls.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Kuruvila Chandapillai, as regards the Alleppey-Changanchery canal, already two sections of the canal have been completed. Rs. 5,000 has been spent and Rs. 13,000 has been provided in this year's budget for the purpose and the work in the third section is engaging the attention of Government. As regards the road you mentioned from Alleppey to Changanachery, I may perhaps mention straightaway that the road will be a practical impossibility. The road will have to cross all the drainage courses and the canals. The cost will be exceedingly high and out of all proportion to the benefits arising from such a road. Wherever the canals are crossed, high bridges will be wanted. Then there are the backwaters to cross. So the road will not come within the range of practical politics. If, as you suggest, only ferries are provided for crossing the backwaters, then the road will be of very little use. So the best means of direct communication bewteen Alleppey and Changanachery can only be a canal.

As regards the grievances of the ryots of Kuttanad in the way of improvements to the state of agriculture and the opening of a veterinary hospital, the details were not mentioned in your list, and hence the answer is not ready. Your representations are noted and they will receive due consideration at the hands of Government.

91. Needs of the Meenachil taluk.

MR. AUGUSTHY MATHAN (*Member, Meenachil taluk, Group I*) said that the people inhabiting the eastern parts of the Meenachil taluk were put to considerable inconvenience for want of proper means of communication. There were absolutely no roads in these regions except an old road about 6 miles in length which was opened about half a century ago at the instance of the late very Rev. Archdeacon Cailey. In view of the extreme paucity of means of communication in this area, Government should devote their attention to the following matters:—

The Erattupetta-Arakulam road sanctioned by Government had not yet been completed. The local people had opened a portion of the road from Kulathur *kadavu* to Maniyurutti canal. The road should be extended from there to the Kurumannur market on the Kollapilli-Melukavu road, and from there to the Muttom Thudakanad-Arakulam road.

The works on the Plasanal-Pravithanam road, the maintenance of which had been taken over by Government, should be started and the necessary repairs made at once, so that the road might be made fit for cart traffic.

The road which the ryots had opened from the Pravithanam

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market to the Melukavu road should be taken over by Government and the necessary culverts and bridges should be provided.

Similarly, the road which the ryots had opened from the Antinad-Melukavu road, 4th mile, to the Todupuzha-Arakulam road and from Ramapuram to the Koothattukulam-Todupuzha road should be taken over by Government and the necessary culverts and bridges should be provided.

The works on the Alad-Kodumpidi village road from the Melukavu-road, 2nd mile, to the Plasanal road which the ryots had opened and the maintenance of which had been taken over by Government should be carried out and the road should be made cartable.

The Ramapuram-Uzhavur and the Vazhamattam-Pinnakunad roads should be repaired and the necessary bridges and culverts should be built on the Ramapuram-Pareikavu road.

The remaining portions of the Lalam-Todupuzha road should be metalled.

The Antinad-Melukavu road and the Pizhaku-Ramapuram road should be metalled and made fit for cart traffic.

The bridge sanctioned near the Kadanadu church on the Kadanad-Pizhaku road should be constructed at once.

Arrangements should be made for the construction of a bridge at the Erattupetta *kadavu*.

Compound walls should be built around the Ramapuram and Karumannur public markets and a well should be sunk in the Ramapuram market.

The sinking of the well sanctioned in the Kurumannur market should be started at once and the tank adjoining the market on the western side should be repaired.

The *kist* months for the Meenachil taluk should be reduced and changed from Tulam, Vrischigam, Meenam and Medam into Dhanu and Makaram.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Augasthey Mathan, your subject covers a large number of public works, especially roads. As regards the conversion into a cart road of the Plasanal-Pravithanam road, it is a ryots' road not yet in a condition fit for traffic and what portion has been cut needs diversion and if it has been done it will be taken up by Government

As regards the other ryots' roads the one from Ramapuram to the Koothattukulam-Todupuzha road has been taken up by Government and an estimate for its improvement for Rs. 2,590 has been sanctioned.

The work will be taken up as soon as funds are available. The other roads you spoke of are either not complete or not fit to be taken over by Government for maintenance.

MEMBER: What about Erattupetta-Arakkulam road?

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PRESIDENT: That is covered by the answer I gave. The Chief Engineer reports that the road is not fit to be taken over by Government as the work in that road is incomplete.

As regards the construction of a bridge at the Erattupetta kadavu it will be a very costly work and the work can be taken up in the order of urgency.

As for the compound walls around the Ramapuram and Kurumannur markets and sinking of a well in the Ramapuram market, the Land Revenue Commissioner thinks that it does not appear that compound walls are necessary in these two markets and as for the wells, he considers they are necessary and the Government will take the necessary action.

As regards the change of the kist months the subject has been repeatedly placed before Government and they consider that the change of kist months in one taluk alone or one division alone will cause great confusion in the accounts and for that reason they have once before decided that it is not possible to accept the suggestion. As for reducing the existing four instalments into two, Government apprehend that instead of giving convenience it may cause hardship to the ryots.

92. Needs of the Meenachil taluk.

MR. CHERIYATHU CHERIYATHU (*Member, Meenachil taluk, Group II*) spoke on the following needs of the Meenachil taluk:—

The territorial limits of the P. W. D. section, Meenachil, should be extended so as to cover all the pakuthies of the taluk. As at present constituted, some pakuthies in the north and north-western parts of the taluk were included in the Vaikom section, Muvattupuzha Sub-Division, Alwaye Division, and some pakuthies in the south-eastern parts of the taluk were included in the Ponkunnom section, Peermade Subdivision. The different parts of the taluk should in future be constituted into one Section and placed under the supervision of the same Subdivision Officer.

A landing ghat should be constructed on the Meenachil river near the Palai bazaar. This would facilitate the loading and unloading of articles and help the growing trade of the bazaar.

The Munsiff's court at Meenachil should be housed in a Sirkar building. The court was for the last 18 years being held in rented buildings.

Government should take over for maintenance the following roads which had been opened by the ryots:

(*a*) the road from Cherppunkal on the Atirampuzha-Lalam road to Kozhuvanal on the Puliyannur-Vazhur road;

(*b*) the road from Kizhavankulam to Mattakara;

(*c*) the road from Kidangur to Marangattupalli on the Lalam-Kaduthuruthu road;

(*d*) the road from Lalam-Ramapuram road, 1st mile, to Ulavur;

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